

December 5, 2011

## **The Engineer's View**

As we enjoy this crisp weather early in December, following a beautiful fall and a bountiful harvest, we know with certainty that colder weather, snow and ice lurk somewhere on the horizon. Thus far, Fayette County has been blessed and missed several snow events, but such good fortune will not last the entire winter.

The Fayette County Road Department has prepared for another winter season. Road salt is available and reasonably priced unlike several years ago. Both outlying and main material storage sheds are full of sand/salt mix. All plow trucks have snow equipment installed and most motorgraders have posts and wings mounted.

The snow policy was published last month after several conversations with the Board of Supervisors and as always a few items warrant extra discussion.

Snow plowing occurs during the early morning into daylight hours; however the policy allows the department to conduct snow and ice control operations when conditions warrant outside of normal hours of operation. Road clearing operations may be curtailed on weekends to reduce costs, as the snow policy allows.

County residents should not plow snow from their driveways across county roads, and when they do, must take care to push the snow off the shoulder so it does not hamper "winging back" operations. Such snow crystals cinder themselves into hard piles and often cause equipment damage to plows and wings.

County residents should expect a windrow of snow to be placed across their driveway(s), and should not expect that the operator will stop, back up and clean out the driveway. Each operator has a large territory to cover and such driveway cleanouts would drastically slow the road clearing effort.

If you have a medical condition that warrants special consideration, persons are advised to request their doctor to send a letter to the Fayette County Road Department, P.O. Box 269, West Union, Iowa 52175 that includes the person's name, 911 address and phone number. Families will be informed of district employee's names and phone numbers to call during a snowstorm or high winds so a snow plow can be dispatched to their aid.

If after reading the Fayette County snow and ice control policy, also available on the County website, you have additional questions; please don't hesitate to contact the Engineer's office at 563-422-3552.